

Nyce-Depue Farm
Old Mine Road, 2.1 mis. NE
E of Dingman's Ferry Bridge
Hainesville Vicinity
Sandyston Township
Sussex County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-737

HABS
NJ,
19-HAIN.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. NJ-737

NYCE-DEPUE FARM

Location: West side Old Mine Road, 2.1 miles northeast of Dingman's Ferry Bridge, Hainesville vicinity, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, New Jersey.

USGS Culvers Gap Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.513160.4566070.

Present Owner: United States Government (1980).

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This stone house, probably built between 1810 and 1815 as a one room dwelling, was added to shortly thereafter and exists without intrusions of the twentieth century. Its most famous occupant, Alonzo De Pue, operated a weather station from the house until his death in 1962. The farm complex also includes a barn and an interesting corn crib, both constructed of hand-hewn timbers.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: Probably between 1810 and 1815. Herbert C. Depue, who was born in this house in 1876, stated that the Nyces built the house. The late William Clark and others, according to Frank Laubach, Jr., claim that John Nyce built it some time after the Revolution. Research showed that the Nyces did not acquire the land until 1810.

According to Herbert Depue, the corn crib was built about the time of his Uncle Benjamin's death in 1887.

2. Architect: Not known
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title. Reference is to the Sussex County Court House, Newton, New Jersey.

1810	Date 21 May 1810	Rec. 22 May 1810
	Deed Book Vol. V. p 315	
	Isaac Van Auken & Berbary (wife) of Sandyston Twp. to	
	John Nice of Delaware Twp., Wayne County, Pa.	
	\$1800 154 acres	

- 1813 Date: 23 July 1813 Rec. 19 Oct 1815
Deed Book Vol. E-2 p 310
John Loder, Jr. & Anna (wife) of Sandyston Twp. to
John Nice, Esq. of Wayne Co., Pa.
\$2685 119.22 acres
- 1839 Date: 27 March 1839 Rec. 29 Nov. 1839
Deed Book Vol. X-3 p 503
John Nyce to William H. Nyce, John W. Nyce
\$5000 425 acres.
- 1842 Date: 17 Jan 1842 Rec. 31 Jan. 1842
Deed Book Vol. Z-3 p 501
John W. Nyce & wife to William H. Nyce
212.74 acres (division of farm of their father, John Nyce).
- 1842 Date: 11 Feb. 1842 Rec. 18 Feb 1842
Mortgage Book Vol. N p 423
William H. Nyce & Margaret (wife) to Oliver Bronson, Arthur
Bronson of New York City, Executors and Trustees under the
will of Isaac Bronson, dec'd.
\$2000 mortgage (\$4000 penal sum)
- 1847 Date: 29 Jan. 1847 Rec. 29 Jan 1847
Deed Book Vol. F-4 p 469
Robert H. M. Carter, undersheriff, Sussex Co., N.J. to
James Nyce, Geo. Nyce & Jacob Nyce, Pike Co., Pa.
\$3300 214 acres - "the farm of William H. Nyce."
- 1857 Date: 1 June 1847 Rec. 4 June 1857
Deed Book Vol. T-4 p 403
James Nyce, Geo. Nyce & Elizabeth (wife),
Jacob Nyce & Delinda (wife) of Pike Co., Pa. to Elisha
Depue of Sandyston Twp.
\$8000 212.75 acres.
- 1858 Date: 6 Nov. 1858 Rec. 8 Dec. 1859
Deed Book Vol. W-4 p 171
John W. Nyce & Mary (wife) of Sandyston Twp. to
Elisha Depue of Sandyston Twp.
\$8428 139.81 acres, 81.05 acres known as the Hausbrook
Tract. This deed re-unites the two parts of the John Nyce
Farm.
- 1872 Date: 27 Jan. 1872 Rec. 27 Jan. 1872
Mortgage Book Vol. I-2 p 371
Elisha Depue & Sarah (wife) to Trustees for the Support of
Public Schools of N.J.
For \$9000 439.51 acres.

- 1877 Date: 20 April 1877 Rec. 17 May 1877
Deed Book Vol. X-6 p 287
The Trustees for the Support of Public Schools of N.J. to
Benjamin F. Depue & George W. Depue
\$5000
Description refers to a new barn lately built by Elisha
Depue.
205.07 acres.
- 1877 Date: 11 May 1877 Rec. 17 May 1877
Deed Book Vol. X-6 p 291
William E. Ross, Sheriff, Sussex Co., N.J. to Trustees for
the Support of Public Schools. By order of Chancery Court,
Trenton, N.J. 16 August 1876
- 1889 Date: 5 Feb. 1889 Rec. 18 June 1889
Deed Book Vol. H-8 p 514
William Clark, Anson A. Jagger, & Daniel D. Everitt,
Commissioners (For Benj. F. Depue, dec'd) to
George W. Depue
205.07 acres.
- 1906 George W. Depue died 19 Sept. 1906
Will Book Vol. N p 200
Farm to wife Mary C. Depue
- 1914 Mary C. Depue died intestate 17 March 1917. Her seven
children were her heirs at law.
- 1914 Date: 1 Sept. 1914 Rec. 23 Sept. 1915
Deed Book Vol. G-11 p 297
Alonzo M. Depue, Lura I. Depue, Augustus J. Depue & Iva M.
(wife), Herbert C. Depue & Sadie E. (wife), Amos O. Depue &
Annie M. (wife), Frank P. Depue and Allie (wife) to
Henrietta G. Depue
\$1
All 6/7 of the land (so farm would not be divided).
- 1955 Henrietta G. Depue died 18 July 1955.
Will Book Vol. 36 p 569
Land to Alonzo M. Depue and Lura I. Depue.
- 1962 Alonzo M. Depue died 5 April 1962.
Will Book Vol. 42 p 469
Leaving Lura I. Depue as joint tenant.
- 1966 Lura I. Depue died 8 Oct. 1966
Will Book Vol. 47 p. 566
Land to be sold by Christian M. Fisher, extr.

1970 Date 20 March 1970

Rec. 20 March 1970

Deed Book Vol. 864 p 540

Christian M. Fisher, Jr. Extr. of will of Lura I. Depue to
Bergen-Sussex Land Corp.

\$100,000 201.67 acres

4. Original plans and construction: The earliest section of the house was the northeast end, which was built with a fireplace at each end and with two rooms on the ground floor. The southwest stone section was added sometime later, possibly as early as a year later, according to Herbert Depue.

The original barn was located southwest of the house, and was demolished in the early 1880s. In about 1876 a new barn was constructed on the other side of the road. The corn crib is part of this later farm complex.

5. Alterations and additions: According to Herbert C. Depue, there were porches on the front and the back, but both were gone before his time. The slate now on the roof was carted from Lafayette by Benjamin F. Depue (d. 1887). George W. Depue (d. 1906) built the wooden addition on the rear of the house "in later years." The upper passageway between the two stone sections of the house was cut through by one of Herbert's brothers at the time of their father's (George W. Depue) illness.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

According to a historical marker beside the Nyce-Depue House, Alonzo Depue (1871-1962), who lived in the house and ran the farm, was a U.S. Weather Observer 1914-1962, Township Treasurer for 33 years, Member of the Board of Education for 28 years, and Teacher of Youth for 14 years.

C. Sources of Information

1. Interview: Herbert C. Depue, b. 1876, who grew up in the house, 9 1/2 Trinity Street, Newton, N.J., July 2, 1970.
2. Secondary and published sources:
 - a. Brown, Lenard E. "Historical Base Map: Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." National Park Service, Denver Service Center, March 1973.
 - b. Decker, Ameila Stickney. That Ancient Trail. 3rd ed. Trenton, 1962.

- c. Laubach, Frank, Jr. "Alonzo Depuy House." ms., August, 1967. In possession of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters, I-80, Columbia, N.J.
- d. Souder, Norman M. "Historic Structures Report, Part I: Architectural Data Section on National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, July, 1967.

Prepared by: William C. Badger
 Wesley Shank
 Project Historians
 HABS
 August, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

- 1. Architectural character: This single-pile stone house exhibits Federal-style characteristics and features original paneling and hardware.
- 2. Condition of fabric: fair.

B. Description of Exterior

- 1. Over-all dimensions: This rectangular, two-story house measures 53'-8" across its six-bay front by 19'-10" deep. A one-story frame addition in the rear measures 34'-2" by 16'-4".
- 2. Foundations: rubble stone.
- 3. Wall construction, finish, color: rubble stone with plastered exterior off-white in color. Ell is wood frame with white novelty siding.
- 4. Structural system, framing: Stone bearing wall. First floor beams, seen in cellar, are round, hewn on one side, and span front to back.
- 5. Porches: None at present. Beams built into front wall indicate the existence of a porch at some time in the past.
- 6. Chimneys: Three chimneys, one at each end and one near the center, are stone to the roofline and brick above. A bee hive bake oven projects from the southwest end wall.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The two doors on the front facade have five horizontal panels.
- b. Windows: Most of the windows have two-over-two light double-hung sash. One nine-over-six-light window remains at the second-floor rear.

8. Roof: The gable slate roof has an unequal pitch on the rear facade where the new stone portion was added. The rear ell is covered with a corrugated metal shed roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement under the northeastern (original) end is divided into two rooms. There is a crawlspace under the southwestern end.
- b. First floor: Three rooms in a row.
- c. Second floor: Four rooms in a row.

2. Stairways: The stairways, located next to the center and southwestern fireplaces, are winding staircases enclosed with beaded planking. The center stairway provides access from the basement to the attic.

3. Flooring: Wide planking. Basement has stone floor.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The ceilings are plaster on handcut lath, except for the southwestern portion, which has a plank ceiling, being the underside of the floor above, and exposed joists. The walls are plaster on stone. A wood-plank partition divides the two southwestern second-floor rooms, and a frame partition divides the two northeastern first-floor rooms.

5. Doorways and doors: In the northeastern two rooms on both floors, there are six-panel doors between the rooms. These doors have two horizontal panels at the base, a wide rail, and four panels above with verticals and horizontals between them. The panels are almost flush on one side of the door, inset with moldings on the other. The remaining doors are paneled.

6. Decorative features and trim: The mantels are a simple, provincial variation of the late Federal style. Three in the northeastern end are elegant; the one in the northeastern second-

floor bedroom is plainer. The southwestern first-floor room has a kitchen fireplace and mantel. The southwestern and center rooms have chair rails.

7. Hardware: Machine-made iron thumb latches. Wrought iron hardware on the basement bulkhead door and southwestern rear door.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces southeast on level land slightly below road level on the west side of the road.
2. Outbuildings:
 - a. Privy at rear of house. Weather station south of house. Across the road to the east are a well house, corn crib, barn, and milk sheds.
 - b. Corn crib: Somewhat like a bank barn, the corn crib is supported on one side by a stone wall where the upper floor is accessible at ground level, and on the other side by wooden posts resting on stones. The structure measures 29'-8" x 5'-2". The ends are solid, of vertical boards, while the sides have open slat construction. The slats are cut on a vertical saw and are unpainted. Structurally, the corn crib has a hewn beam frame, pinned together. The knee braces were cut on an up and down saw. Some beams and braces were obviously reused from an earlier building.

There is one vertical-plank door on the south elevation. Openings for loading in the upper half of the east side have no remaining covers. At one time there were two doors for unloading in the lower half of the west side, but these are now filled in. The shed roof has a corrugated galvanized iron covering. The flooring is random-width planks with roughly 1" spaces between. The roof boards are cut on a circular saw. The rafters are debarked poles. Mostly machine-cut nails are used throughout with a few wire nails. There are machine-made strap hinges and hasp on the door. A 1927 N.J. license plate has been used as a patch in the wall.

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Project Historians
HABS
June, 1970

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1970 under the direction of Melvin M. Rotsch (Texas A & M University), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects John Albers (University of Florida) and Gary Kreger (University of Virginia) in the HABS field office at Millbrook, New Jersey, in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Welsey Shank and William C. Badger, project historians, in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Alison K. Hoagland of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1970.